

Fencing is Key to Safe Schools

Chemawa Indian School in Oregon has an inner perimeter fence, and KinLani Bordertown Dormitory in Arizona considers its neighbors.

Through its Safe Schools Initiative, BIE has worked with OFMC to ensure student safety on BIE-funded school campuses by fencing school property and limiting access with electronically operated gates.

At KinLani Bordertown Dormitory in Flagstaff, Ariz., enclosing the 14-acre property affected access to a neighboring housing area. The issue was resolved with a letter to a neighborhood representative from Dormitory Chief Executive Director Lolita Paddock.

“The gates have, and will continue to, remain open at all times unless the Dormitory has a lock-down drill or an actual lock-down. The Dormitory is required to hold lock-down drills bi-annually. Each drill will last approximately five to thirty minutes. In the case of a drill, signs will be set up advising residents that the Dormitory is in a drill and that the gate will be temporarily closed,” Paddock wrote in a November 2012 letter.

She added: “The Dormitory is working with the City of Flagstaff to ensure that safety and emergency personnel have access in the case of an actual or drill lock-down. This may involve installing a different type of gate and/or the City building roads allowing for alternative access to the neighborhood.”

At Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Ore., the fencing was limited to an inner perimeter, since the school campus is 320 acres. A guard shack with electronic gate is being installed. Athletic fields are outside the new fence line, so the school will increase its supervision of students coming and going to the fields during daylight hours, said BIE’s Seattle Education Line Officer Jonathan Claymore.



A new mile-long fence line encloses the 14-acre KinLani Bordertown Dormitory grounds in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Video: See the KinLani gates which allow the dormitory's neighbors access to their community.

Video: See the Winslow Dormitory gate in action.



Chemawa Indian School's athletic fields lie outside its inner perimeter fence.



The Chemawa guard shack is located at the inner perimeter fence entryway to the school. It will have motorized gates with a key pad for after-hours entry. While employees will use their ID numbers to operate the gate, visitors must speak via intercom with the front desk to request entry.